the supply of coins and currency notes, Government has taken following steps:

(i) modernisation of Government of India Mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai;

(ii) complete coinisation of Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/- Rs. 5/- and diversion of spare capacity to printing of higher denomination of notes;

(iii) modernisation of existing two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas;

(iv) setting up of two more note-printing presses under the direct control of Reserve Bank of India (i.e. one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal); and

(v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs. 1,00,000 crores) and 1000 million pieces of coins (of a total face value of Rs. 130 crores) as a one-time measure.

(b) A final decision has not been taken.

Compulsory Insurance of NBFCs

722. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to protect small investors by compulsory insurance of non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) A viable deposit insurance scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) requires the consolidation of this sector and an adequate framework for their supervision. Further, the possibility of the riskier of the NBFCs being favoured by a non-discriminating, all inclusive approach to deposit insurance has to be kept in view. The examination of the feasibility of introducing a deposit insurance scheme for the depositors of NBFCs is one of the terms of reference of the working group constituted by Reserve Bank of India in September, 1996 to examine an appropriate instrumentality for supervision of NBFCs.

Blacklisting of Merchant Bankers by SEBI

723. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI has blacklisted eight Merchant bankers out of its list of 134 such bankers as reported in the Economic Times of 19th June, 1997;

(b) whether it is also a fact that notices have been issued to these bankers for cancellation and suspension of their Merchant Banking Licences;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether they have been found involved in any type of scams; and

(e) if so, the details of the scams during the last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) SEBI has informed that it has initiated enquiry proceedings against 134 merchant bankers under SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Rules and Regulations , 1992. These merchant bankers failed to meet their underwriting liabilities in various public/rights issues. Notices have been issued under the regulations to these merchant bankers by the Enquiry Officer for cancellations/suspension of their Merchang Banking Registration.

(d) and (e) SEBI has stated that it has no information about the involvement of these merchant bankers in any scam during the last 10 years.

Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

724. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently launched voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme1997 will be the last offer from Government after the 1975 and

1989 offers to disclose black money as reported in the Economic Times of 19th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of achievements under the scheme of 1975 and 1989;

(c) what quantum of black money was disclosed separately under two schemes;

(d) what quantum of money Government think is likely to be disclosed under the VDIS 1997; and

(e) the details of methods likely to be used for the successful achievement of scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) As of now, no other scheme for disclosing Black Money is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) The Voluntary Disclosure of Income & Wealth Ordinance, 1975 (later promulgated as Act of 1976) resulted in total disclosure of wealth of Rs. 841.72 crores and income of Rs. 746.07 crores. No voluntary Disclosure scheme was announced in 1989.

(d) The VDIS scheme of 1997 is likely to mop up substantial amount of black money for productive purposes.

(e) The Government has undertaken wide publicity of the scheme so that public at large is kept informed about the salient features of the scheme.

Inspection of NBFCs

725. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken inspection of non-banking finance companies;

(b) if so, the names of large and medium sized NBFCs inspected since the CRB capital market episode; and

(c) whether any irregularity has been detected as a result of the inspection and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are inspected by Financial Companies Wing of Department of Supervision in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) normally as per the inspection programme drawn by the regional offices and approved by the Central Office of RBI. According to RBI 90 NBFCs have been inspected by them during 1996-97.

(c) Wherever serious irregularities have been observed, RBI have issued show-cause notices/prohibitory orders. RBI have so far issued prohibitory orders in respect of 12 companies in 1997.

Customs duties on telecom equipment

726. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently imposed Customs Duties on Telecom equipment and if so, the detail thereof;

(b) whether Government had received any communication for special concession including deemed status to the domestic manufacturing industry from the Department of Telecom, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the submission of that Department was taken into consideration before impsoing the Customs Duties on telecom equipment and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Government have reduced basic custom duty on specified telecom equipment to 20% and have exempted them from additional duty of customs, vide notification 51/97- Cus dated 2.6.97. The concessional duty benefits are available if such equipment are imported by persons licensed by Department of Telecommunications for the purpose of providing basic telecom service, cellular mobile service, paging service and value added services.

(b) and (c) Finance ministry had received recommendations from Department of Telecommunication (DOT) that concessional customs duty may be provided to only those equipment which are currently not